

## THE TOPICAL TALKER.

## THE VIGILANTES' HASGMAN.

## BOOK WORLD WONDERS.

## FAMOUS GUESTS ENTERTAINED.

## CURIOUS CONDENSATIONS.

## The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURGH, SUNDAY, JAN. 26, 1890.

## BISMARCK'S DEFEAT.

The vote in the Reichstag, yesterday, by which Bismarck's socialist bill was roundly defeated, furnishes a singular illustration of German politics. The bill is one which Bismarck has made a leading feature of his policy for the year that it has been under consideration. It is a mixture of socialism and imperialism. It provides care for the workmen under control of the Government, which provides them with life insurance and otherwise keeps them under tutelage, with the practical condition that they shall never be anything else than workmen.

This compromise of the imperial policy with socialism came to the test yesterday and was decisively defeated. Bismarck, it is intimated, refrained from impugning the reputation of his control over the legislative body, as he would have done had he made the closing speech in favor of the bill, and was about on the plea of indisposition. The defeat of the measure was probably more crushing than it would have been if he had taken up the closing fight for it. Nevertheless, it was his pet measure, and the overwhelming rejection of the bill was a defeat for him.

It is probable that most of the votes against the bill were inspired more by the dislike of the employing class to be burdened for the support of the workmen, than by opposition to its utter negation of the principle of real popular freedom. That inconsistency is very remarkable in view of the other illustration of German imperialism, afforded by the outcome. Any other responsible ministry in Europe, on sustaining such a defeat, would be forced to resign. Bismarck, however, continues to rule Germany whether the Reichstag votes with him or against him.

## MORE CARE NEEDED.

The testimony with regard to the explosion on Thirty-third street left no doubt that it was caused by natural gas, which had leaked from a main some distance away and passed along through a sewer to the house which was wrecked. The coroner's verdict set forth the fact and recommended more care in the examination of the valves and lines of the gas companies. The finding was, under the circumstances, a very mild one. A few years ago the frequency of such explosions and the consequent explosions of public opinion and forced regulations, which secured exemption from such casualties for some years. This safety has evidently engendered a neglect of the old precautions, which the Thirty-third street explosion indicates. It is to be hoped that no more houses will have to be blown up before the gas companies earnestly resolve to have no more broken valves or leaky mains.

## TENDERNESS FOR THE YOUNG.

Colonel Swords, a Federal office holder, who holds his position by virtue of campaign services, has discovered that civil service reform is ruining the brightest and best young men of the country who get placed on the eligible list and then waste their lives in waiting for the appointments, which may or may not come to the end. The disposition of the humanity to dance attendance upon patrons has been prominent for many centuries. That it has been eradicated by the partial operation of civil service reform is not likely. The habits and influences of age are not so easily changed. Nevertheless, it is certain that the evil is not more marked now than it was before civil service reform went into force. The distinctive difference between the former and latter regime is that now the bright young men with some honor at the appointment will be given to some other; while formerly they waited only to see it given to some ward politician or wire-pulling sportsman in the end.

The care of Colonel Swords for the welfare of the brightest and best young men would probably lead him to rule them out of the race and let the professional politicians do the waiting. But, perhaps, when the matter is put in that light, the public may develop some objections.

## THE PENALTY FOR BURGLARS.

As it is perfectly well understood that the average burglar goes upon his midnight mission prepared to kill as well as to steal, there is no species of criminal which the community is better satisfied to see caught and oged than the knight of the "jiminy" and dark-lantern. The reckless diabolism which the professional burglar can display when detection is threatened, or when an obstacle arises to his depredations, was shown in the brutal and cowardly murder of Mrs. Butler, at Tarentum, a few weeks ago. The robbery of the premises of Mr. St. Clair, at Wilkensburg, and the shooting of the owner, was another case in point. It is with gratification that citizens who object to such nocturnal invasions will read this morning of the sentence of the two persons, Smith and Burns, for 21 years and 17 years respectively. The regret, if any, will be that the law did not permit of their execution for life.

In connection with cases of this sort, the recent remarks of Colonel Ingersoll on the

treatment of criminals are naturally of interest. Last week, before the Bar Association of New York, Colonel Ingersoll pleaded for the criminal on the ground of inherited tendencies. He would have the offender gently treated. He would oppose any line of procedure that might even hurt the feelings of a convict. A fund should be laid up for his support from the proceeds of his work while in confinement, so as to start him in independent circumstances on his release. Colonel Ingersoll would do all this, and more, out of consideration for the fact that criminals are more often, he argued, born to be such than self-made; and that all crime is a species of insanity.

This view is philosophic, but to make it work is quite another matter. Colonel Ingersoll's probable fallacy consists in assuming that the world can be more successful in combating and eradicating the evil predisposition of individuals after getting them into prison than before getting them there. But the facts do not indicate that. In the present state of things, there is no able-bodied man who cannot, by honest work, earn the wherewithal to feed and clothe himself—this even at unskilled labor. He has his position over his humble, his face over his plain, or his garb over his coarse, he will find no indifference, coldness or contempt from the rest of the world, but a rather willing, universal disposition to recognize every desirable quality he may display. It can be said, in truth, of organized crime, that it would gladly do, and by education and philanthropic effort is constantly doing, much to keep away from the prison gates those who are beset by evil circumstances. The persistence therefore with which the more perverse and professional offenders prosecute their misdoings must be set down as the result of deliberation rather than impulse. No one will deny that it is a duty to provide them, while under duress, with every incentive to permanent reform; but, however operative that system might be, it would not be the bars, it would not be the extremely doubtful effort on the evil-disposed who still remain outside, to make the prison a mere philosophic retreat for gently persuading away hereditary tendencies to dishonesty and violence.

Whatever the theories as to the best method of dealing with professional offenders, the practice which is most likely to prove deterrent is to make their punishment which the laws provide as quick and certain as possible. And this would be the policy, in the personal class, but it will reduce its numbers and its operations to a minimum. Mr. James G. Blaine, Jr., has secured a better position than working in railway shops in the state of New York, by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs at a salary of \$2,100 per year. This is such an improvement in the young man's income that it is to be hoped he may be able to support his family.

## DOM PEDRO'S DECLARATIONS.

The declarations of Dom Pedro, the ex-emperor of Brazil, concerning the causes and events which lead to the revolution, are full of interest and throw new light on the events which led to his dethronement.

The assertion that the abolition of slavery was the original cause of the disaffection which made the revolution possible, is one that observers of Brazilian politics have every reason to believe. The slavery question was the agitating one of Brazilian politics for many years. The wealth and intelligence of the country being almost exclusively of the slave-holding class, that powerful part of the people were ready to take their revenge on the monarchy for its enlightenment and progress.

Of more immediate importance, as bearing on the status of the present Brazilian Government, is the ex-emperor's assertion that the question of the Republic or monarchy to a popular vote, and thus settle whatever changes should be decided upon in an orderly and constitutional manner. The refusal of that offer certainly casts discredit on the purity of republicanism which governs the men who now rule Brazil.

Dom Pedro's personality, even as illustrated by his readiness to go back to Brazil to place the Republic on its feet, is one that the people is not of so much importance as the nature of the Government that has succeeded him. But the burden of proof that it is a Republic rests on a Government that rejects such methods as he offered, and insists on the banishment of so illustrious and liberal a Brazilian as the late Emperor.

## A CONVENTIONALITY OF POLITICS.

In the interview with Mr. Cleveland, which was published in the other day, the President took the usual modest attitude with regard to the nomination of 1892. "It is the cause and not personal considerations that should concern us," said Mr. Cleveland. "I am so well situated now that if I consulted my own feelings, I would prefer to have some one else take the lead." Regarding this disinterested expression, the sardonic New York Sun exclaims: "Humbug and dishonesty!" and proceeds to demonstrate with a good deal of vigor, that it is unnecessary humbug and silly dishonesty, because it deceives no one, and because everyone knows that Mr. Cleveland is working for the Presidency. The fact may be conceded that Mr. Cleveland would like to be again elected to the Presidency; but it is necessary to characterize his conventional assumption of fondness for private life with such crushing epithets.

The regular thing in the case of candidates called to high position is to declare that any person that will be acceptable to service calls them to the front. It was safe to say that of the candidates whom the Sun has supported for office, seventy-five per cent have indulged in such professions of disinterestedness and self-sacrifice. It is the *nolo episcopatu* of American politics. In other words, it is the correct conventional. But is there any reason for jumping so severely on the prescribed expressions of sentiment which do not mean all they say and which are not true? No. When the coroner's speech is taken into consideration, and all it contains is at your command, you need not hurt back the epithets, "humbug and dishonesty" in his teeth. If a lady tells you she is much obliged to you for a seat in the cars, or a gentleman uses the same expression with regard to a light for his cigar, it is not incumbent on you to tell them they are liars; although both parties know that the obligation is not much, but is really very slight.

Mr. Cleveland's profession of personal preference for another leader of the party, is a conventional policy, just as telling a man that you are glad to meet him is a conventional policy of society. It is worthy of neither blame nor praise. It is colorless and characterless, save as it represents the desire to do the correct thing.

## THE TAILORS' TROUBLE.

It is interesting to learn that the merchant tailors of Philadelphia, have formed an organization bearing upon the question of a large class of fashionable youth who expect their tailors to dress them for the honor and glory of the thing. The investigations of the tailors of the Quaker City show that over 5,000 of the gilded youth men of that sober city conduct life on the principle of getting their finery for nothing. They toil not, neither do they spin, and yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of them.

It is not surprising that the tailors who

have had a long experience of the unprofitableness of dealing with this class of fashionable dead beats, should resort to an organization by which people who do not pay their bills are to be placed upon the black list. The public will sympathize with any movement to prevent this species of enforced charity, for more cogent reasons than sympathy with the artists of the yardstick and shears. The paying public have a direct interest in the matter, arising out of the fact that when the tailors furnish so large a proportion of their custom for nothing, the paying customers must either pay for the clothes of the dead beats in the increased margin, or the tailors must go into bankruptcy. As there has been no disproportionate representation of the fashionable merchant tailors interests in those mortality lists of business, known as the reports of failures, the conclusion is irresistible that the people who pay for their clothes are also paying for the tailors' idleness of those who get their clothes for nothing.

It is necessary to point out that a less questionable method of stopping this fashionable practice of getting good clothes for nothing, than the indirect and rather hazardous one of publishing black lists, exists within the power of the tailors. Let them eschew the policy of inducing people to buy clothes which they do not need by letting them have long credit.

When they make everyone pay cash for their suits, they will have the practice of being good tailors and making the public pay for it will be brought to a sudden stop.

EX-PRESIDENT CLEVELAND's remark, that "men who have elements of leadership develop rapidly," has a touch of autobiography. The young man of Buffalo who was elected President in 1894, is certainly justified in that assertion. But the rapid development of 1892 does not make it certain that the same process will be repeated in 1896.

THE Inter-State Commerce Railway Association is to have another "gentlemen's agreement." That organization insinuates in this luxury twice a week, to be conducted by the members present to conduct business on the legitimate basis of competition. Under those circumstances the public need not object to the gentlemen's agreement. It hurts no one, and amuses the members of the railway association.

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THE Austrian doctor who claims that he has discovered the bacillus of the grip, has the honor to be the first to announce it. It is the bacillus of that disease and not the bacillus of cholera morbus or swelled head. The description of the noxious organism is that it is elliptical in form, yellow or dark blue in color, and has a pointed end. It is a bacillus of the genus *Staphylococcus*.

THE termination of one notable career in the case of "Jabber Bessie," who earned fame by running through a fortune in a phenomenally short time, is characteristic. He has been lodged in prison for the forgery of a check for \$100,000. This one more fool is permanently disposed of.

IT is rather hard sledding when the enlists of the House have got to point to the present in the North-west as asserting the cattle and sheep that it does not pay to ship them East. Under these circumstances it does seem as if the North-westerners ought to have plenty of cheap food.

SPYKER REED has deemed it necessary to keep a list of K's and H's, designating the classes of "kickers" and "hard kickers" in order to refuse recognition to the House of Representatives. The House is in position to care not who makes the speeches for the House so long as he can make the speeches and the committees can make the legislation.

THE indications for the past week have been favorable for an ice crop; but they have not been strong enough to amount to any indications that the lordly ice man will rule the situation as usual next summer.

THE success of a freight train on the West Penn road, yesterday, in telescoping a passenger car without hurting anyone, was very remarkable. Most people would say that it could not be done; and since it has been shown that it is possible, every one will agree that a single demonstration is sufficient and further experiments on that point are wholly unnecessary.

SENTENCES of twenty-one and seventeen years respectively, for the two Wilkensburg burglars, is calculated to be a decided drawback to the house breaking profession.

WHEN New Yorkers oppose a motion for an early vote in the House on the location of the World's Fair, they practically acknowledge that they are not sure of getting it, and would rather let the project be put to rest than let any other city get it. The dog-in-the-manger policy is a consistent termination to New York's record on the Fair question.

## PEOPLE OF PROMINENCE.

THE Rev. Dr. Edward Everett Hale preached an installation sermon the other day at the First Unitarian church at Berlin, Mass., where his own first sermon was delivered in 1842. MAJOR BAXTER, who has left the stage and is leaving a good deal of money and real estate, is a fine German scholar. She speaks and writes German with perfect ease.

MR. SYDNEY WATERLOO, of England, is in residence at the Hotel de Ville, and has been questioned by the police during his term of office. Lord Mayor of London in 1873, when his magnificent reception of the Shah of Persia and the Viceroy of India attracted general attention. It is said that he was the most popular Lord Mayor London has had for over a century.

EXPRESS AGENTS, of Germany, was very fond of the pump and state of royalty. In 15 years ago she sustained a severe and incurable injury by slipping and falling on the marble floor of one of the halls of the palace. She never regained her health, but she did not, for that reason, relinquish her post as hostess at the court balls. She was carried to her throne early in the evening and remained until she died.

ROBERTSON, radical Unitarian clergyman, and Rev. M. J. Savage, took upon labor, not as an unblest blessing, but as a necessary evil. "For," he says, "while the wage system is in vogue, the laborer is a slave, and the capitalist a master. The only way to escape this is to live as the hermit. He has a great dislike for the frivolities of Parisian society, and he is very fond of the solitude of the mountains. He is a great admirer of the simplicity of the lives of the ascetics of the Middle Ages.

MR. GOWD, the famous musical composer, is a man of intense religious feeling. As he has been a member of the Unitarian church, and exclusive in his habits, and until today lives almost the life of a hermit. He has a great dislike for the frivolities of Parisian society, and he is very fond of the solitude of the mountains. He is a great admirer of the simplicity of the lives of the ascetics of the Middle Ages.

## LITTLE PROFIT IN STYLING.

From the Ohio State Journal.  
The present Legislature of Ohio. Why, therefore, should it not pass the necessary appropriation bills and adjourn over to next January.

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## PHILADELPHIA PRESS: Poor Riddleberger—that all-powerful Riddleberger, of Virginia, who has done the trick of getting his pulpit well paid; but the altitudes of the life of the Capital misled and destroyed him, as they destroyed greater men before him. The man that has done this is a scoundrel. The man that has done this is a scoundrel. The man that has done this is a scoundrel.

## NEW YORK TRIBUNE: A coroner's jury has found that the Louisville high bridge duster, which destroyed 14 lives, was the result of the men in the caucus, having passed a resolution that they would not be responsible for the lives of the people.

## NEW YORK TIMES: The Portuguese ought to be told that they are making a very unbecomingly spectacle of themselves. To plead discoveries of the fifteenth century, not followed by any real occupation of the lands discovered, as a reason why nobody else should now occupy and improve what has remained a wilderness, is a proceeding that finds no warrant in international law or in common sense.

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